

UNCODED

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The Central Signal Section (Tsentral'nyy Otdel Svyazi) was a section of the Ministry of the River Fleet subordinate to the MRF minister through his Deputy Minister for General Administration. Approximately 80 employees worked in this organization.
2. The Central Signal Section was responsible for:
 - a. Organization of the internal (mainly telephone) signal service within the Ministry of the River Fleet, as follows:
 - b. Organization of signal service between the MRF in Moscow and its field organizations. This service relied mainly on radio communications. For this purpose, a radio center, equipped with powerful two-way radio stations, was organized in MRF. Each steamship company was also equipped with transmitting and receiving radio stations.
 - c. Preparation of a "Qualifications Questionnaire" for all personnel employed by, or connected with, the MRF signal service (Kharakteristka) which contained all information on an individual's training, qualifications, and ability.

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- d. Preparation of short-term title lists of MRF personnel.
 - e. Supplying MRF and its field agencies with signal equipment and material. Requests for these supplies were forwarded to the Central Directorate of Material-Technical Supply, MRF. Distribution of these supplies to subordinate agencies was also a responsibility of the Central Signal Section.
3. Open (unclassified) radio messages were in a set form, in Morse code, and, according to their urgency, were classified as regular cables, lightning cables, or immediate delivery cables. Lightning cables (molniya) were forwarded immediately, with no delay en route. Immediate delivery cables were forwarded in the normal manner; but, as soon as they were received at the place of destination, they were immediately delivered to the addressee, regardless of the hour and whereabouts of the addressee.
 4. Coded radiograms were classified as secret (marked "S") and top secret (marked "SS"). For both types of messages special printed forms called "coded telegram" (Shifrotelegramma) were used, on which the sender wrote or typed his message in plain characters. Such forms were then forwarded to the respective code sections (in each larger steamship company). The MRF field agencies which did not have code sections used the neighboring ones. As soon as a coded telegram was accepted in the code section, it was re-coded, registered, and forwarded to the responsible radio bureau. The radio bureau was an office within the agency ~~directorate~~ which radioed messages (in Morse, or another code) to the radio station (normally located out of town or on the town's outskirts). ~~MRF, like MRF,~~ used the system of numeral codes (nomernyy shifr --- no details available). When a coded message was received by the radio station, it was forwarded to the proper radio bureau; from there it went to the code section, where the message was decoded and forwarded to the addressee. In the MRF all radio messages pertaining to mobilization, code, and secret document section matters were forwarded as top secret. Messages containing information on the quantities of various cargoes transported during certain periods of time were also forwarded as top secret. Messages reporting cases of death caused by accidents were treated in the same way. Messages containing information on the location of individual vessels on route; the progress of the fulfillment of the transport plan; accidents and injuries; T/O information on MRF agencies and individual vessels; and all information containing names of vessels and their characteristics were sent as secret.
 5. The only personnel authorized to use radio facilities in the MRF and its field organizations were section heads and their deputies. Exceptions were made only for officials on temporary assignments who, in justified cases (for important and urgent messages), could use the radio facilities of the closest MRF agency.
 6. All outgoing open-text radiograms had to be cleared through the respective code sections (sekretno-shifroval'nyy otdel).
 7. It is of interest to note that after mid-1950 governmental regulations considerably cut down the use of radio facilities in MRF and MRF. The apparent intention was to reduce the load put on these facilities after World War II and to ensure compliance with the strict security regulations prescribed for radio service. At the same time, the number of personnel authorized to use the radio service facilities was considerably reduced, and a new list of short term titles of MRF and MRF official personnel was issued. These measures immediately caused a noticeable increase in telephone conversations between the ministries and field organizations and among the field organizations themselves.

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